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# CROW TRIBAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 400

Crow Agency, Montana 59022

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Office of the Chairman

Clifford Hardinwood, Sr.  
CHAIRMAN  
Vernon Gray Akumak, Jr.  
VICE-CHAIRMAN  
Larry Little Owl  
SECRETARY

May 27, 2002

Honorable Michael K. Powell, Chairman  
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 - 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell, Ladies and Gentlemen:

As Chairman of the Crow Tribe of Indians from the State of Montana, I am writing to reaffirm the Crow Tribe's determination to have Western Wireless develop a wireless telephone system to provide residents of the Crow Reservation with affordable telephone services. That is why the Crow Tribe enthusiastically supports Western Wireless. The Crow Tribe fully supports the Western Wireless August 2000 Petition seeking designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC") for the Crow Reservation. The Crow Tribe respectfully requests the FCC to immediately commence exercising its jurisdiction in this matter. As a domestic sovereign nation, we have inherent powers to enter into a consensual, commercial relationship with Western Wireless, free from interference by regulation from Montana's Public Service Commission, (Montana PSC). We respectfully remind the Commission of the federal trust relationship and the ensuring responsibilities to deal directly with the Tribe.

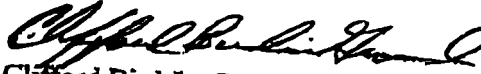
Crow tribal sovereignty is preempted only by the federal government and never by the State of Montana. The Crow Tribe Public Utility Commission and the Crow Tribal Council are fully prepared and legally empowered to do what is necessary to establish a local loop wireless system for our reservation system and we want Western

Wireless to be granted ETC status as our tribally designated carrier of choice. It is our sovereign right and our sovereign responsibility. Please inform me about the timetable you expect will accompany this action.

Western Wireless has deferred appropriately to our tribal sovereignty by responding to our request to make a business presentation to us and by entering into a Joint Statement of Interest with our tribal government. Western Wireless has responded appropriately to our tribal attorneys and to our tribal officials. I expect no less from the Commission. Your support, understanding and respect for our tribal sovereignty is necessary.

The Crow Tribe of Montana respectfully requests that the Commission assume jurisdiction outright over designation of a carrier that serves the Crow reservation as an ETC.

Respectfully submitted.

  
Clifford Bird-In-Ground, Chairman  
The Crow Tribe

Cc/ Chairman Michael Powell  
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin

TOTAL P.02